

- 6 months in the City Jail at Orleans
- 13 My trials both at Mobile & Orleans & I was giving up at both Courts to be the Slave of The Wetumpka Judge
- 14 My second escape from the Judge after he had put me in a ragged pen in Orleans By pretending to have gold
- 15 My being Retaken by my Night Master in
- 16 At Orleans My escape from my Master again & my cutting my way through 18 or 20 men on Board the Steamer making my escape & made good my escape
- 17 My being retaken by my Masters agent in Cincinnati Ohio & taken back again to my Master who was living in Orleans
- 18 My Master wife becoming my friend
- 19 My 3d escape from my Master
- 20 My late travels in the South

Now Sir I want both your influence and assistance in this matter; after you shall have answered the contents of this letter then you may know more of this matter. However I expect to have your whole heart in this cause & now Sir I do hereby obligate myself to give you every satisfaction that you may demand of me either by letters or in person or both, after I shall have understood your mind upon this subject. Please answer this letter at once direct Ms A 57 Duane In the care of Elizabeth Drayton  
Your Humble Servant J. H. Murray



- As a freeman  
6 My being Redraped by the Judge of the  
Wetumpky Court in the City of Mobile Alabama  
And imprisonment in the City Jail at  
7 Mobile { My cutting two sets of strong Havana  
Iron from off my Boely with a Knife while  
I was passing down to the deck of the Steamer  
Kiagwa within the State Room of the Judge  
of the Wetumpky Court  
8 My escape from the Steamer & my arrest  
By 5 officers as soon as I had reached the  
Shore within the Town of Selma Alabama  
& my escape both from the officers & the Town  
9 My arrival again in the City of Mobile  
& my letting myself to a great gambler  
By the name of Smith, as a free servant  
& my two year travels with him through  
All the Southern States & my knowledge of  
The general Character of Slaveholders & the  
Treatment of Masters to their Slaves in the  
Different Southern States  
10 The different manner by ~~which~~ which  
they punish the Slaves  
11 My intention is to take all the different  
modes of punishing with me to cope  
in all most heaving Characters; that is to say  
All manner weapons & instruments by  
which Slaves are punished in the South  
12 My being retaken by the Wetumpky Judge  
in the City of N. Orleans, & my confinement



with others my plan to get money enough to keep  
The whole family of us is this; I think of trying my  
hand in some parts of Europe in the Spring & see  
what success I will have! If you ask what my  
intention is after I shall have got myself with  
in Europe in order to get up sympathy for my cause.  
Now Sir you may judge from the following out-  
lines my full intention, & I hope you will sym-  
pathize with me both in my views & course

1 The way I made my escape from my Masters  
plantation which is 20 miles back from the  
Mississippi River within the State of Mississippi  
And the punishing of 2 slaves with death one  
month & 5 days before I made my escape; the  
offence was for trying the 3<sup>d</sup> time to escape from  
the plantation

2 my arrival in N Orleans & letting myself to  
a gentleman as a free servant & went with  
him to Texas & of his selling me in Texas for  
hundred dollars

3 my escape from Texas to N Orleans again & my  
going back again the second time to Texas  
with Mr Thomas Lord & three other gentlemen  
for to arrest the fellow who had not only sold  
me but had helped himself to 5000 dollars  
of Thomas Lord's money

4 the manner by which I escape 5<sup>th</sup> time  
from the city jail of N Orleans

5 my shipping myself in the United States Service



Jan 24

New York Dec 1<sup>st</sup> / 24

Sir 169

It is with no small degree of Apprehension  
As to the manner in which you may receive  
the following avowal that I take up my pen to  
address you but I have so long struggled with  
my feeling that they have now got the better  
of my irresolution and throwing aside all  
Hesitation I have ventured although alarmed  
At my own boldness in doing so to lay open my  
Whole Cause before you and the condition of  
them for whom I feel it my duty to act; yes  
I am emboldened to lay open to you my cause be-  
cause you have always proving yourself a good  
And faithful friend to my Race } & also being  
convinced of your good sense & amiable dispo-  
sition that I feel assured you will deal can-  
dly with me in your Reply } Now Sir I will  
have you understand in the first place I am  
A Slave and have at this present hour my Father  
Mother 3 Brothers & one sister all of whom  
are now owned by one of the worst of Masters in  
the State of Mississippi from whose cotton plant-  
ation thank God I have succeeded in making  
my escape & now believing it to be my high moral  
duty to do all within my power for their freedom  
that they too may enjoy freedom in common